

We claim:

1. An antenna arrangement for a conventional utility meter having a cover and metallic infrastructure plus RF communications capability, comprising a slot antenna formed to fit under the cover and cooperating with said RF communications capability.
2. The arrangement of claim 1, wherein said cover is in the shape of a frusto-cone and said slot antenna is formed in an approximate frusto-cone shape.
3. An antenna arrangement for a conventional utility meter having a cover, metallic infrastructure and RF communications capability, comprising:
  - (a) an antenna with a radiating/receiving element and that is formed to fit under the cover and
  - (b) a dominant metallic structure that is physically closer to the said radiating/receiving element than the metallic infrastructure is to said radiating/receiving element.
4. A method of managing the varying effects of differing incumbent metallic infrastructures on the performance of a radiating/receiving element of an antenna, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) inserting a metallic structure closer to the radiating/receiving element than the incumbent metallic infrastructure.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said inserted metallic structure takes the form of a slot antenna and the radiating/receiving element is the slot of the slot antenna.